DEMOCRATIC

GERMAN REPORT

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WAVE OF ARRESTS

Storm Trooper Teacher

The former Chief of Staff of Hitler's brown-shirted Storm Troops, Hans Scheppmann has been appointed teacher at the primary school in Gifhorn, British Zone of West Germany. The Ministry of the Interior of the province of Lower Saxony stated that it had no objection to the appointment, since Scheppmann had been classified as a "nominal nazi" by the denazification court.

A charge of committing crimes against humanity is pending against Scheppmann, and is due to open in a court at Dortmund, West Germany, on July 26th. Recent trials on such charges in West Germany have almost all ended with the acquittal of the accused. The charges against Scheppmann date from the early period of nazi dictatorship, when he was police chief and Gestapo commander in Dortmund.

West German Gestapo Jail Workers' Leaders

From Our West German Correspondent

Bonn — West German police went into action last weekend, arresting leading members of the working class movement in many parts of the country.

On May 21st Walter Fisch, member of the Central Board of the Communist Party, and former member of parliament, was arrested as he left a meeting at which he had spoken. The policeman carrying out the arrest was Lieutenant Philippi, former member of Hitler's Gestapo.

On the same evening, other police squads arrested Richard Scheringer, a leading member of the farmers' section of the Communist Party, and Karl Zemke, another prominent Communist.

The wave of arrests continued on May 23rd, when Communist Central Board member Fritz Rische was arrested as he was leaving the St Joseph Hospital in Bochum, where he had just visited his wife who is seriously ill.

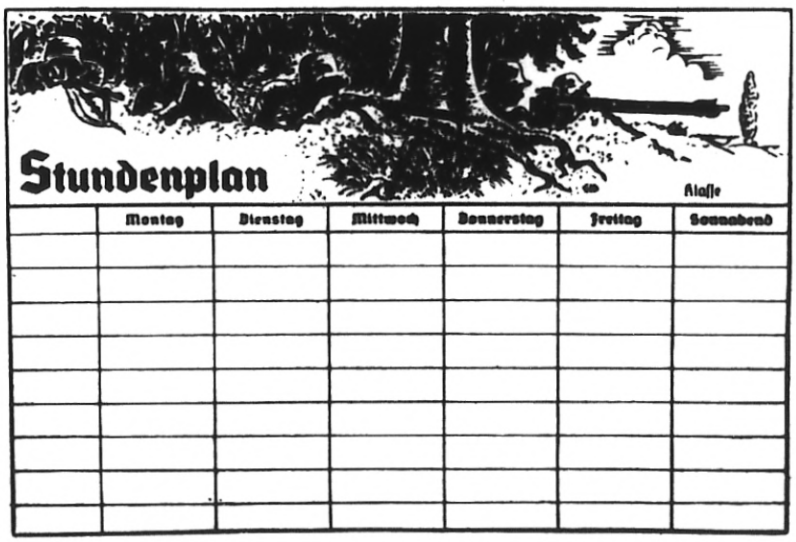
A few hours earlier the leader of the Communist fraction in the Gelsenkirchen city council, Alfred Dibiasi, had also been arrested.

Many homes in the Stuttgart region were searched by police squads during the weekend, and all sorts of books and pamphlets were seized, including copies of the Potsdam Agreement, signed by Truman, Attlee and Stalin in 1945, and copies of the "Communist Manifesto", published by Marx and Engels in 1848.

In all these cases the reason for the arrests and the searches was given by the police as "Preparation for high treason, consisting of participation in the drafting of the Programme for the National Reunification of Germany". This programme was issued by the West German Communist Party on November 12th 1952, and the full text was published in progressive newspapers in West Germany and widely distributed as leaflets without any interference from the police. A summary of the programme is given on page 78 of this issue.

The present wave of arrests follows a decision by the West

(cont. on next page)



This is a school timetable, as sold to West German schoolchildren by the "Ferdinand" stationery shop, Wallbrecht Strasse, Hanover, British Zone.

WHAT IS IN WEST GERMAN SCHOOLBOOKS? SEE P. 81

(cont. from front page)

ARRESTS

German Federal Court on May 6th this year, by which two men were sentenced to long terms of imprisonment for the offense of distributing copies of the programme.

(Several of the men arrested had plenty of experience of prison under the nazi regime. Walter Fisch spent the first two years under Hitler in prison, and then managed to escape to Switzerland. Fritz Rische was repeatedly arrested by the Gestapo, and served a long prison sentence for "treason".)

Petition

"To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in Parliament Assembled.
THE HUMBLE PETITION OF CITIZENS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, Sheweth

That the Berlin Conference did not exhaust all possibilities of a settlement of the German question on the basis of Four Power Agreement:

That the rearmament of a divided Germany is a threat to world peace:

Wherefore your petitioners pray that every opportunity be sought for the purpose of reaching an agreed solution of the German question and that all steps for the rearmament of Germany be halted."

That is the full text of a petition which will be presented to the British Parliament on June 15th. The petition is sponsored by Aneurin Bevan, Lord Boyd Orr, Professor G.D.H.Cole, Rev. Donald Soper, and many others. Copies of the petition form can be obtained from: Union of Democratic Control, 21 Strutton Ground, London S.W.1.

IS THIS TREASON?

Here are some of the main points of the Programme for the National Reunification of Germany issued by the West German Communist Party in 1952, which is now being described by the West German authorities as "treasonable":

1. **East-West German Commission to be established to organise the holding of free all-German elections: the speedy conclusion of a peace treaty with reunited Germany: all occupation troops to leave after the conclusion of the peace treaty, and no foreign bases shall remain on German soil.**

2. The National Assembly, to be freely elected in an all-German general election, "shall make decisions on the internal democratic and social structure of Germany and will lay down its foreign policy, which should be a policy of good neighbourliness directed towards peace".

3. **All laws limiting the democratic rights of the people shall be revoked: the law shall guarantee freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, freedom of combination, freedom of opinion and freedom of religion: all hate propaganda for war or against other races and nations shall be punishable by law.**

4. Mines, heavy industry, big banks, etc., shall pass into the hands of the people: large estates of over 250 acres will be divided up amongst poor peasants, re-settlers and agricultural labourers.

(Further points dealt with equal pay for women, the development of social services and education, etc. A few copies of GERMAN REPORT for November 21st 1952 giving the full text are still available, and will be sent to any reader interested.)

"Sieg Heil" Pfeiffer Withdrawn

World-wide protests have forced the West German Government to cancel the appointment of a nazi veteran as West German "observer" to the United Nations in New York.

The withdrawn appointee was Herr Peter Pfeiffer, nazi party member No. 8,128,186, who sent a notorious telegram to Berlin in 1942, when he was serving as nazi consul in Algiers, concluding with the words "Sieg Heil Fuehrer und Deutschland".

Announcing the withdrawal of Herr Pfeiffer, the West German Foreign Ministry stated: "Ambassador Pfeiffer will not be able to take up his appointment at the United Nations. As the result of a large-scale diplomatic rearrangement, he will be appointed to another post".

(The facts about Herr Pfeiffer's nazi past were first publicised in English in GERMAN REPORT on August 1st 1952. When the West German government appointed him to the UN post in March this year, GERMAN REPORT readers in Britain and the United States who keep their copies on file and indexed were immediately able to go into action with the real facts. Moral: keep your copies of GERMAN REPORT on file, and drop us a card for the 1952 index, a few copies of which are still available, and the 1953 index, which will be off the presses in a few days.)

PAMPHLETS RECEIVED

"Negotiations, The Way to Peace" by Jessica Smith. Published by New World Review, 23 W. 26 St., New York. 25c.

This 64 page pamphlet, subtitled "The Berlin Conference and what it means to you", contains not only a first-class summary of the speeches and proposals made at the historic Berlin Conference of Foreign Ministers this winter, but also a six-page appendix presenting in potted form the main facts about East and West Germany today. It is a first-class ready-reference source for everybody who thinks, talks or writes about Germany today.

10,000 Ton Ship for East Germany

The Warnemuende shipyards will begin this May with the building of the first large ocean-going ship to be built in East Germany.

The ship, intended for the China trade, will be of 10,000 tons displacement. All shipyards which built ocean-going ships before the war are situated in West Germany: East German shipyards have hitherto only constructed small vessels for coastal trade.

Homesick

Rudolf Weiner, a German who had lived abroad for thirteen years, visited the industrial exhibition of the German Democratic Republic which was on show in Cairo during March 1954. He was so much impressed by what he saw that he has returned to his homeland.

Adenauer Will Award War Medals

The West German Government should immediately institute a "War Service Cross" to award to soldiers in the nazi army "who were not able to receive the medals for which they had been proposed because they were wounded or became prisoners" the Bonn Ministry of the Interior proposed on May 20th.

"BURIAL OF A HERO"

"As the coffin, decorated with the traditional war flag of the Reich, and with a steel helmet, sank into the grave, a company of the Federal Frontier Troops fired three salvoes in honour of the dead man".

This is not a cutting from a nazi newspaper of 10 years ago, but from the May 21st 1954 issue of the West Berlin "Tag", organ of West German Chancellor Adenauer's Christian Democratic Party.

The funeral described is that of General Heinz Guderian, the man who organised Hitler's tank army for him, and who served as Wehrmacht Chief of Staff in the closing stages of the war.

The funeral of this leading militarist was converted into an official state occasion by the attendance of the band and firing party of the West German Federal Frontier troops; representatives of Adenauer's Government and the provincial government of Lower Saxony, high-ranking American officers and a whole series of Wehrmacht generals were also amongst the 2500 mourners.

West Berlin Police Forced to Release Doctor

West Berlin police have been forced to release anti-fascist veteran Dr. Carl Coutelle, who had been arrested there on a framed-up charge of kidnapping.

Dr. Coutelle, who served in the medical corps of the International Brigade in Spain, was arrested at the end of April when he visited a West Berlin hospital to lecture there on cancer-fighting methods. Strong protests by colleagues and many other people forced his release on May 19th, after three weeks confinement. No charge was preferred against him.

"NO NEW WEHRMACHT" —Youth Pledge

Young men and women from 23 different European countries, representing Socialist, Catholic, Communist and other youth organisations issued an appeal from Berlin on May 19th for the young people of Europe to resist the formation of the western European Defence Community, and the raising of a new West German Wehrmacht.

"We young men and women from all parts of Europe lived through the horrors of the last war: we want to see to it that there is no resumption of mass murder: we want to make sure that we do not face each other on the battlefields" the appeal issued by the two-day Conference of European Youth stated.

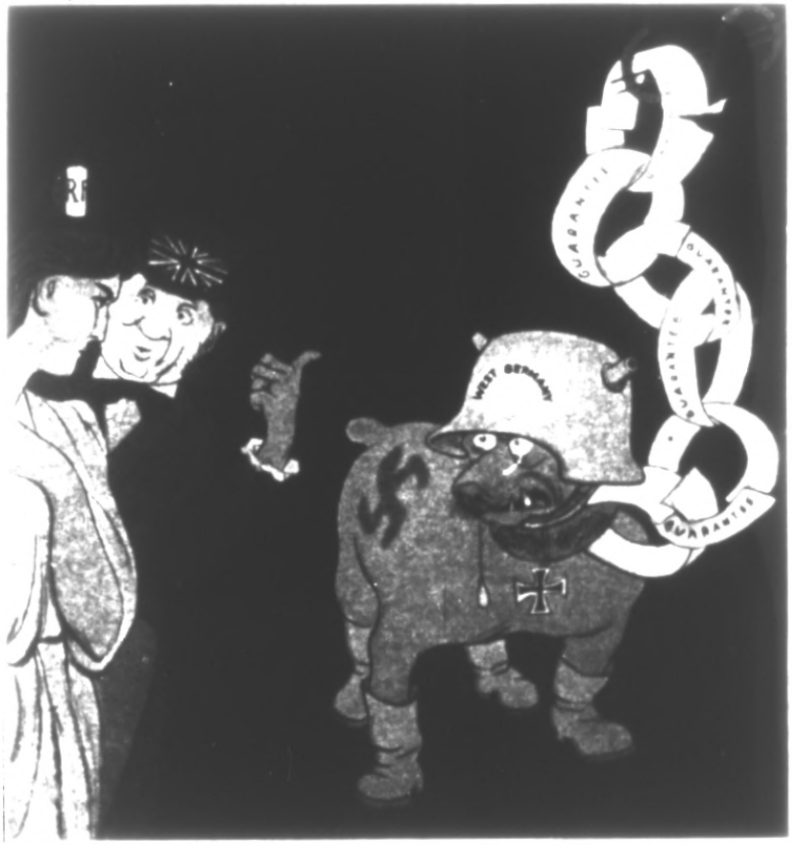
"We call on all young people, without distinction, to unite in order to fight against EDC and against the revival of German militarism.

"We call on them, wherever they can, to arrange contacts in the fields of culture, sport, trade and politics, either on a national or an international basis."

The British delegates at the conference included Ronald Shaw, a young engineer representing the East London Committee against German Rearmament and Tom Milroy, a theological student from Scotland. Both are members of the Labour Party. The British Federation of Young Cooperators sent Miss Daisy Graham as an observer.

"Our Great Example"

The Hitler Wehrmacht should be the "great example" for the future Bonn Army, for which West German troops are to "fight and if necessary die", said ex-nazi Vice-Admiral Goth at a meeting of former U-Boat pilots in Hamburg on May 16th.



But will the chain hold?

(From "Krokodil", Moscow)

Life Better in East Germany

WAGES UP 8% — PRICES DOWN

Average wages in East Germany have risen by 8.6% in the past year while prices have fallen considerably, official figures released in Berlin show.

The figures were given in the report on the fulfilment of the Economic Plan during the first three months of 1954. They showed that in this period gross production had been 11% higher than during the same period in 1953, but that despite this increase production had still been 3% below the target figures set.

The official plan report stated that this failure to reach targets had been largely due to the fact that the various ministries and central authorities had not helped the factories in which production was lagging to catch up with those factories which had reached a high stage of development. "More help must be given to the laggard factories" the report demanded.

Here are some other details given in the plan report:

Consumer Goods

There have been huge increases in the production of consumer goods. Twice as many hot water geysers are now being turned out as one year ago; 80% more sewing machines, 46% more saucepans, 35% more bicycle tyres, and 30% more refrigerators.

Investment

Total investment in the first three months of 1954 was 7% up on the 1953 figure, but the distribution of the investment has been completely changed in order to make living conditions better, not at some indefinite future date but today and tomorrow.

Investments in metallurgy have been halved, and in engineering cut to one third. At the same time investment in housing has been doubled, in light industry it has been raised by 137%, and both education and health have received 45% increases in their investment budgets.

Quality of Production

The Plan Report severely criticised the Ministry of Light Industry for its failure to meet public demands with regard to quality and finish of the goods offered for sale. "The quantity and the range of light spring clothing materials, of fashionable ready-to-wear clothes, and of smart shoes is insufficient" the report stated.

Export Trade

The cancellation of all reparations to the Soviet Union from the beginning of 1954 meant that in the first three months of 1954 the quantity of goods exported could be increased to 28% above the 1953 figures. Trade with capitalist countries was up 42% and with the democratic countries 23% compared with 1953.

Retail Trade

The rise in the standard of living could clearly be seen from the fact that in the first quarter of 1954 butter sales were 64% up on the 1953 figure; fish sales were up 56%; meat sales were up 17%; the sales of worsted cloth had doubled; and the sale of cameras was two and one half times as high as during the corresponding period of 1953.

Private Industry

Production in the private factories of the German Democratic Republic, which still make up 14% of the total, has risen more in the past year than the general average, and is now 18% higher than one year ago. This is mainly due to the increased emphasis on light industry and consumer goods, in which sector nearly all the privately owned factories are concentrated.

FARMS FOR DISPLACED WEST GERMAN PEASANTS

West German farmers who have been driven from their fields because of the construction of US airfields and other war preparations can now get free farms in East Germany.

This was announced on May 13th by the Government of the German Democratic Republic. The official announcement stated:

"The war preparations being made in West Germany, and the anti-farmer policy of the Adenauer Government have endangered most seriously the position of small-holders and medium farmers in West Germany.

"Since 1945 more than 1,700,000 acres of farm land have been requisitioned for the building of US military bases. In addition Adenauer has announced that a further area of some 18,000,000 acres will be taken away from small-holders and granted to large estate owners and speculators. These measures are to be taken as part of the so-called 'European Agrarian Union', under which West Germany is to be turned into a storehouse to provide the European Defence Community with potatoes and corn.

"According to Adenauer's plans the farmers and peasants driven from their fields should become soldiers in the EDC army, or be sent to Canada, South America and Australia as cheap labour.

"The Government of the German Democratic Republic calls on these West German farmers to remain in Germany, to oppose Adenauer's policy of war, and to fight for their fields.

"The Government of the German Democratic Republic declares its readiness to grant farms, which they can cultivate themselves, to those farmers driven from their fields by the American occupation forces and the West German militarists."

The Government declaration stated that farmers and agricultural labourers who came to the German Democratic Republic from West Germany would receive holdings under the terms of the Land Reform Ordinance of 1945, under which all big farms of over 250 acres were split up and distributed. They will be granted credits free of interest for the first two years of their occupation of the new farms. and various other aids will be given until the farm is in full production.

WHAT THE SCHOOLBOOKS SAY

IN WEST GERMANY

All quotations in this column are taken from the "Geschichtsbuch für Real- und Mittelschulen" (History Book for Grammer and Secondary Schools), Part V, Edited by Schulrat Fritz Simonsen, Published by Ernst Klett-Verlag, Stuttgart 1953.

IN EAST GERMANY

All quotations in this column are taken from the "Lehrbuch für den Geschichtsunterricht" (Textbook for History Teaching), published for the Ministry of Education of the German Democratic Republic by Verlag Volk und Wissen, Berlin 1952. This textbook is used by all 14-year-olds in East German schools.

Hitler Seizes Austria (1938)

"The Anschluss of Austria to the German Reich was the result of the unanimous wish of the Austrian people to be absorbed in the German Reich" (page 122/123)

"On March 12th 1938, German troops marched into Austria, followed by Gestapo and SS, and the representatives of the German arms firms and banks, who took over the banks, mines and large factories. Austria was the first country in Europe which fell victim to the fascist robbers." (page 243)

Hitler Seizes Czechoslovakia (1938—1939)

"The incorporation of the Sudeten Germans in the German Reich... resulted from the fact that the Czechs had made no efforts to win the various nationalities in their state... that the Reich felt itself threatened... and that 90% of the Sudeten Germans recognised as their Fuehrer Konrad Henlein, Chairman of the National Socialist Sudeten German Party" (page 123)

"The nazis provoked clashes with the Czechoslovak police. Hitler declared that the 'Germans' (in the Sudeten area) were oppressed, and set military forces marching under the excuse that he was going to help them... Hitler committed a new act of aggression, robbing her not only of the Sudeten area, but of almost all Czechoslovak territory bordering on what was then the 'Reich'." (pages 244—246)

Hitler Seizes Memel (1939)

"The restoration of Memel to the German Reich meant that here, as with Austria and the incorporation of the Sudeten area, an injustice had been righted." (page 126)

"After the rape of Czechoslovakia, Hitler continued the predatory policy of expansion of German imperialism, forcing the Lithuanian Government to hand over Memel." (page 252)

Hitler Invades Poland (1939)

"Upon the outbreak of war, the Poles vented their hate against the Germans in a frightful outbreak of murder... The German troops were greeted as liberators when they marched into Bromberg" (page 127)

"On Hitler's orders Gestapo and SS men in Polish uniforms made a mock attack upon the Gleiwitz Radio station, thus providing the excuse of Polish aggression... On September 1st the German armies, long held in readiness, invaded Poland." (page 255)

Hitler Attacks the Soviet Union (1941)

"The campaign began because Hitler believed that Stalin would soon launch war against Germany... Volunteers who wanted to fight against Bolshevism came from the countries of occupied Europe. Hitler hoped that this war would bring the German people not only security from communism, but also land for settlement. (The defeat of the Wehrmacht in the Soviet Union) was largely due to the Russian winter, which froze the machine guns, and often stopped the motors of the tanks and the planes from functioning." (pages 130/131)

"On June 22nd 1941 Hitler tore up the non-aggression pact, and launched the war of aggression of the German imperialists against the Soviet Union... Hitler propagated the lie that the predatory war against the Soviet Union was being waged in order to save civilisation. In 1943, however, one of his ministers announced that the real goal of the German imperialists was the capture of land and raw materials." (pages 261—261)

(n. b. The West German history book makes no mention at all of the extermination of millions of Poles, Russians and others in Hitler's concentration camps. The extermination of millions of Jews is dealt with in three lines and described as "unworthy". (p. 119.) All other nazi crimes go unmentioned.)

(n. b. The East German history book devotes three and a half pages to the nazi extermination programme, and makes repeated references to other nazi crimes: i. e. "To the shame of our people it must be recorded that many soldiers of the nazi Wehrmacht looted the property of the people of the occupied countries." page 266)

AGENT 1600/H GIVES UP

West Berlin Spy Surrenders

An important espionage agent from West Berlin has surrendered to the authorities of the German Democratic Republic, bringing with him vital documents and lists of spies working in East Germany.

A statement made after his surrender by the agent, Gerhard Kapahnke, former deputy chief of espionage branch 1600/H of the American-financed "Gehlen Organisation" led by former nazi spy-chief General von Gehlen, was published in the East German press on May 15th.

Kapahnke stated that his branch had been largely concerned with "Long-Range Investigation", that is to say the planting of agents in the Soviet Union, Poland, and other People's Democracies. Chief of this section was nazi General Koerning.

"The Gehlen organisation was also very interested in establishing a network of radio transmitters in the German Democratic Republic" Kapahnke stated. "The recruiting of radio-telegraphists to run these sets was concentrated on people unfit for active service, so that in case of war they would be able to remain at their posts and work for the Gehlen service.

"I also have information that the Gehlen service works against France and Italy actively. There are four branches of the Gehlen organisation in the Saar territory, which direct the work against France, and there is also an illegal branch of the Gehlen organisation in Rome.

"Now I have decided to break once and for all with this criminal organisation, and as a proof of my good faith I have handed over to the authorities of the German Democratic Republic material on the activities of the Gehlen organisation, and facts about the numerous spies of this organisation who work in the German Democratic Republic."

"We Spied on Each Other"

— Captured Spy States

Members of the dozens of various spy organisations active in West Berlin spend a considerable part of their time spying on each other.

This has become clear recently as the result of the confession made by Heinz Glaeske, an agent of the West German spy service Gehlen organisation, who was arrested on April 13th by the security forces of the German Democratic Republic.

In his confession, parts of which have been made public, Glaeske stated that his main work as agent of the West Berlin branch 1600/K of the Gehlen organisation was to penetrate the network of the British Intelligence Service in West Berlin, and report on it to his organisation, which is run by former nazis working for American money.

Glaeske stated that he had managed to recruit the assistance of Herr Buse, living at 137 Wilhelmsaue, at Wilmersdorf in the British Sector of West Berlin, who was a full-time employee of British Intelligence, and that Herr Buse had sold him internal information on the workings of the Intelligence Service.

As a side-line, Glaeske admitted, he had sold the same information to another American-financed spy service, the Russian emigrant organisation NTS.

WIN A NEW READER

Fill in the name and address of a friend, work-mate or acquaintance on the form below, and send it to

Democratic German Report
Friedrichstrasse 167/III
Berlin W 8, Germany

We shall be pleased to mail sample copies of the paper to him or her.

Name .....

Address .....

West German Spies Sentenced

The East Berlin criminal court has passed sentences of up to ten years imprisonment on a group of eight young men who were caught red-handed spying for the West German War Ministry.

The spies, who included in their number a former SS sergeant, had provided secret information on the factories in which they worked, stolen keys to doors in the Ministry of the Interior, and made preparations for carrying out military espionage in the Polish People's Republic.

SHORTS

A folk art group of the German Democratic Republic has just returned from a three week's tour of Albania, where they performed in the larger towns.

•

The East German State Opera Company opened a series of guest performances in Paris on May 15th with Mozart's "Don Giovanni".

•

East Germany's leading theatre company, the "Berliner Ensemble", will present "Mother Courage", by the great German dramatist Bertolt Brecht, at the international drama festival in Paris in July 1954.

•

A complete sugar refinery has been shipped to China from the Sangerhausen Engineering Works in the German Democratic Republic.

•

Automatic turret lathes which have previously had to be imported from West Germany are now being produced in the nationally owned machine tool works in East Berlin. Export of these lathes to China will begin at the end of 1954.

•

A mirror telescope weighing 6 tons, which took two years to construct in the Zeiss Optical Works in Jena in East Germany, has been delivered to the observatory at Hamburg in West Germany.

•

Sweden will be represented by an exhibit at this year's great trade fair held at Leipzig, East Germany, from September 5th to 15th. Almost all west European countries, including Britain, France and Belgium, will also have exhibits at the fair, and more than 1000 firms from West Germany are expected to have stands.

"GERMANS MUST DECIDE"

Plebiscite Call From Congress

Voters in East and West Germany must be given the chance to decide for themselves on the question of German rearmament, the German National Congress held in Berlin on May 15th and 16th demanded.

The National Congress, composed of 5000 delegates elected by factory groups and political and social organisations in both parts of Germany, issued an appeal to the East and West German Parliaments to hold plebiscites in which voters would be asked for their choice between remilitarisation as laid down in the Bonn and Paris Treaties, or a peace treaty with a reunified Germany.

The National Congress elected the National Council, made up of leading men and women from all walks of life, and charged it with the task of doing everything possible in the coming period to bring the two halves of Germany nearer to each other.

First task of the National Council will be to approach the West German Federal Parliament and the East German People's Chamber with proposals designed to bring about joint discussions between the two bodies on the following points:

1. **Banning of A-bombs and H-bombs, and all other biological and chemical weapons of mass extermination.**
2. **Limitation of the police forces in both parts of Germany.**
3. **Preliminary measures towards the establishment of one single currency for the whole of Germany.**
4. **Removal of the obstacles to inner-German trade.**
5. **Support for all measures to protect the unity of German culture.**
6. **Formation of an all-German scientists committee to protect the interests of German science.**
7. **Restoration of the freedom of sports exchange throughout Germany.**

Catholic and Protestant Clergy Address Congress

Dr Karl Fischer, Roman Catholic Pastor from Neustrelitz, East Germany, told the National Congress of his joy that the Pope had given a clear condemnation of the weapons of mass destruction.

"Anyone who today supports Eisenhower and Adenauer is in favour of turning West Germany into a battlefield, or even worse into a radioactive silent uninhabitable zone, where not even weeds can grow" Pastor Fiscner stated. "But I have learned, particularly in the past few days, that the number of religious people who see the truth is steadily growing in West Germany."

Dean Heinrich Grueber, Protestant Church leader from Berlin, suggested that the atom scientists from the whole world should be invited to Berlin, to discuss here how they could use their knowledge for the good of the world, and not for its destruction.

"We must speak and discuss with each other, across the demarcation lines, and without regard for ideological differences" Dean Grueber stated. "One of the great difficulties confronting us is that when men and women in the west stand up for German unity and for liberty, then they are defamed, and no hair of their head is left unbesmirched. I do not need to be clairvoyant to predict what certain western press organs will say tomorrow about this congress. Either they will suppress the news altogether — that is the simplest way — or they will make all sorts of accusations about the people who have spoken here."

"MANSLAUGHTHER"

A West German court at Darmstadt passed sentence on German soldiers who had committed war crimes on the Eastern front during the war. The court heard evidence that Wehrmacht Captain Friedrich Karl Noell, and Sergeant Emil Zimber had murdered between 60 and 250 Russian civilians in a village near Smolensk. The evidence was so overwhelming that the court had to find the accused guilty. They were given nominal sentences on charges which had been reduced to "accessory to manslaughter", and were immediately released.

"Come Home" Appeal to Foreign Legionaries

An appeal to German members of the French Foreign Legion in Indo-China to leave the ranks of the colonial army, and return to Germany where they could work for peace, was issued by the German National Congress, meeting in Berlin on May 16th.

The appeal stated:

"German foreign legionaries in Vietnam! You are shooting at people who are fighting for their national liberty and selfdetermination. You are not acting in the interests of Germany, but are bringing shame to the name and honour of Germany.

"The war in which you are engaged is both dirty and hopeless, for the cause of Vietnam liberty will win. Thousands of you have already fallen, and thousands more have been wounded or sick.

"The great majority of the German people in West and East are opposed to your participation in this criminal war. Listen to the voice of your people: stop fighting, and go over to the Vietnam People's Army, in order to return to Germany.

"As a Foreign Legionary in Vietnam only dishonour and death await you. In Germany families are waiting for you. Come home and help to rebuild your homeland. Do not die for foreign imperialists: live for Germany."

The National Congress also appealed to the Governments and Parliaments of Germany to take immediate steps to prevent the recruitment on German soil of young people for service in foreign armies; and also to end the practice by which West German authorities have in the past arrested and handed over to the French military authorities young Germans who have fled from service in the foreign legion.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

A few years ago, just after the war, a new word was coined in the German language — "Persil-Schein". The word, which can be idiomatically translated as "Lifebuoy-Certificate" or "Lux-Diploma" was derived from the well-known German cleanser called Persil; it was applied to affidavits certifying that the holder had a) never been a nazi, or b) only been a nominal nazi, or c) had been an active member of an anti-nazi resistance movement, although disguising himself at the time as a particularly virulent nazi.

Lux Diplomas

Certificates in the c) category were sought particularly by Gestapo officials, high-ranking SS officers, and others of this sort, and as soon as one of this gang was acquitted by any of the denazification courts then active in West Germany, he hurried to supply affidavits for all his acquaintances.

If one attached any credence at all to the "Lux-Diplomas" which were finally in circulation, it became clear that Hitler himself, single-handed, had run all the concentration camps, fought all the aggressive wars, and gassed all the millions of victims. All the others had been bitter anti-nazis, according to their certificates.

Of course, the "Lux-Diploma" era has long been over in West Germany; but now we are in for another round of phoney affidavits of character.

This time, however, they will be certificates to prove that the holder was always a good nazi and militarist, even in the years 1945-46 when it was of no advantage. The people demanding the certificates are the West German Government; specifically the Blank Office, Adenauer's camouflaged War Office.

New Form

Section II/3 of the Blank Office in Bonn has just sent out big forms to the 140,000 West Germans, mostly former nazi officers and non-commissioned officers, who have applied for posts in the new West German Wehrmacht. The forms contain 36 groups of questions, mostly what one would expect: where did you serve, what rank, what technical training etc.

But question 32 runs as follows: "Give the names and addresses of persons who were imprisoned with you. The names should be those of persons able to give information on the honourable conduct of the applicant during his stay in prisoner-of-war camp or internment camp".

So now the former SS officers, who a few years ago were ready to pay a fortune for a forged affidavit that they had once been nice to a Jew, are running round getting signatures on statements confirming that they always stood to attention and saluted with "Heil Hitler", even in allied internment camps after the war.

At this point I can hear doubting readers clearing their throats, ready to ask: "Aren't you assuming rather a lot from what might after all be just a routine question?"

I honestly don't think so. After all, the officers' selection board for the new Wehrmacht, which is sending out the questionnaires, is composed of four nazi generals. I know nothing of the past history of two of them, Major General Freiherr von Gersdorf and Major General Freiherr von Boeselager, except that they served Hitler contentedly throughout the war. A third member, Lieutenant General Kuntzen, was department head in the personnel section of the Hitlerite Wehrmacht, and had the job of weeding out unreliable (that is to say anti-nazi) officers. And his colleague Major General Freiherr Smilo von Luettwitz played a leading role in the nazi destruction of Warsaw and is sought by the Polish Government as a war criminal.

And anybody who thinks that this bunch of betitled Prussian militarists is looking for nice democratic liberal officers for the new Wehrmacht is, to put it mildly, singularly naive.

Blank Verse

On April 16th I printed in this column a few lines of blank verse written 35 years ago by a still-living prominent English author, and offered a small prize to any reader who could identify him.

The lines were written by Sir Osbert Sitwell in the London "Nation" of July 5th 1919, and appeared in the same year in a slim volume of his verse called "The Winstonburg Line", directed against the private war of intervention which Winston Churchill was then waging against the young Soviet Republic.

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One of the most popular books ever published in East Germany has been "West Germany Prepares a War of Revenge", which documents, from West German sources, the preparations being made for the formation of a new Wehrmacht. A copy of the English edition has been sent to all postal subscribers to GERMAN REPORT, but we shall be glad to send one of the few copies still on our hands to any reader who a) has not received one, or b) could not get it back after lending it to a friend. Copies are available in English, French and German. (This offer does not apply to readers in the German Democratic Republic.)

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